Spring 2026

The Blue & Grey Gazette

Sayreville Middle School's Latest News

Celebrating Our Newest NJHS Members

By Jocelyn Ortega



On the evening of May 13, 2026, the Sayreville Middle School cafeteria was packed for this year's National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. It was a big night, bringing together our new inductees, returning members, and the executive board to celebrate everyone's hard work. The ceremony kicked off with speeches from the 8th-grade board members: President Jocelyn Ortega, Vice President Nicole Domagala, Secretary Avishi Agarwal, and Historian Emmy Kwan. Each of us spoke about what it really means to represent NJHS through leadership, character, service, and citizenship. After the speeches, our advisor, Mr. Babst, led the most memorable part of the evening. Ahead of the ceremony, every new member was asked to pick one teacher who truly helped them grow as a person. One by one, the inductees got to share a few words about their chosen teacher. It was great to see our teachers receive the recognition they deserve for everything they do for us. To make things official, the new members stood up and repeated the NJHS pledge together. Once the formal part of the night was over, everyone stuck around for food and light refreshments. It was a fun, relaxed way for students to hangout, chat with teachers, and celebrate making it into NJHS.

Mr. Errico is Retiring

By Rachna Kamat

One of our amazing Sayreville Middle School teachers, Mr. Errico, is retiring this year! He has been working in education for more than 25 years serving in the roles as teacher, vice principal, and even principal. While being a teacher, he has only taught 6th grade math and has spent 10 years working here at the SMS. Although he is an outstanding teacher, this was his second career path. Mr. Errico became interested in teaching during his time as a board of education member where he got to walk around schools and saw the heartfelt connection teachers made with their students. That empowered him to undergo the Alternate Route Program where he became a certified K-12 Teacher with a Math Certification.

When he retires, Mr. Errico plans to travel, spend a chunk of his time with his two grandchildren, and also continue to volunteer for the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Baseball and Softball program. He says that he will miss his colleagues and interacting with his students the most after retiring, but plans to continue to serve on the Edison Board of Education. His favorite program at Sayreville was definitely the Bomber Beyond Program which he finds to be incredible. While the students and staff of Sayreville will definitely miss Mr. Errico, we wish our amazing teacher the best during his retirement!



IN THIS ISSUE: **School Happenings, Sports, Movie Reviews, & More**

We Survived Camp Bernie

By Liam Patel



From Monday, April 20th to Wednesday, April 22nd, members of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program at Sayreville Middle School attended Camp Bernie, a YMCA outdoor educational camp. As a student who attended, I can confidently say that this experience was both enjoyable and unforgettable. On the first day, we participated in teamwork activities like the ropes course, rock climbing, and fishing or canoeing. That evening, we gathered around the campfire for songs and stories, where we met two of our favorite staff members, Danny and Carson. On the second day, we woke up bright and early to begin our busy schedule. We worked together to stack crates and build a tower that one group member would climb. We also experienced the giant swing, which required us to be securely harnessed before taking flight. Later, we tried archery, participated in a blindfolded sensory walk through the woods, and enjoyed outdoor cooking. We also had more opportunities for canoeing and fishing. That night, we went on a night walk and attended the ice cream social. By the end of the day, everyone, including the teachers, were exhausted.

On Wednesday, the day we left, there was still time for a few final activities. Students who had participated in archery the previous day had the opportunity to experience the nature walk, while those who had completed the nature walk were able to try archery. This allowed everyone to enjoy both activities before heading home. Overall, Camp Bernie was an incredible experience that taught students the value of spending time outdoors and connecting with others without relying on their phones. The trip created lasting memories and strengthened friendships. As an attendee, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this experience so special, including our TAG advisor, Mrs. McGough, our chaperones, Mr. Babst, Mr. Mullins, Ms. Tarr, and our camp guides, Danny, Carson, and even Quinn. Thank you for making this trip one to remember.

SMS Student Council Does Well

This year the SMS Student Council worked hard to make the middle school and the world a better place. They began the year having elections for board members and then hosting the Fall 6th grade social. They also organized the Anything Goes assemblies, assisted the PTO and other organizations around town with events, attended the leadership conference at TCNJ, and raised money for the New Jersey State Student Council's yearly charity, Crisis Response Canines. According to their website, "The mission of Crisis Response Canines is to provide strength, comfort, and emotional support to individuals, families, communities, and first responders experiencing intense traumatic emotions in the aftermath of critical incidents." Sayreville Middle School was even lucky enough to meet some of the canines from this program when they came to visit our school. Finally, the student council was able to fundraise and donate $2000 to Crisis Response Canines, and they were honored at the state student council awards ceremony at Great Adventure in June. Job well done!

Sayreville Teen Advisory Board

By Liam Patel

Are you a teen in Sayreville looking for a super cool place to make new friends while helping our community? Then, you should join the Teen Advisory Board, otherwise known as TAB. This group holds meetings biweekly at the Sayreville Public Library, from when school ends to around 4:00. It is run by a wonderful advisor named Sarah Moore, but we just call her Sarah. She works for the library and manages all of the teen events. The Teen Advisory Board is responsible for planning future events, volunteering for the library, and helping out wherever we can. The age requirement for this group is 12+, so most middle schoolers and high school students are able to participate. Consider joining the Teen Advisory Board because not only does it provide students with the opportunity to help our community, but it also helps them form valuable friendships and have fun.



FBLA Goes to States

By Liam Patel and Emmy Kwan

On March 18, 2026, Sayreville Middle School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) went to the FBLA State Leadership Conference. At the SLC were five other schools: Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Halstead Middle School, Heritage Middle School, South River Middle School, and Eisenhower Middle School. These schools were competing against Sayreville for the Top 10 awards in each event and also for a chance at nationals in San Antonio, Texas. While there, throughout the day, the members of FBLA did workshops that included Shark Tank: From Middle School to High School, JANJ Financial Feud, Teaming up for Success, What is Leadership?, and Parliamentary Procedure. Along with these workshops, there was also the opportunity to earn ribbons for their FBLA lanyard. At the end of the day, this experience was very memorable and educational for members of Sayreville Middle School's FBLA chapter.



The students who placed in the top four heading to San Antonio, Texas:

- Liam Patel
- Diya Shah
- Tanisha Patel
- Kelly Erickson
- Tailey Yan
- Tori Marotolli
- Hudson Lombardi
- Sudarshan Samudrala
- Siddarth Patankar
- Nicole Domagala
- Avishi Agarwal
- Isabelle Waga
- Aurora Iljazi
- Niharika Gusani
- Aashi Shah
- Aanya Chokshi
- Hemanth Umapathy
- Dhruv Shah
- Alexander Mora
- Aditya Kachhadiya
- Jillian Isabor
- Floralyse Conway
- Laila Rivero
- Christine Quilon



SMS Duets

On May 29, 2026, Sayreville Middle School had its Duets competition. Students auditioned months ago to sing and perform with an SMS staff member at the SWMHS Jon Bon Jovi Performing Arts Center in a night to remember. The competition consisted of nine groups. The groups were Salvatore DeSarle-Scarpulla and Mrs, Clay, Ky'lee Mitchell-Quintana and Mr. Knoth, Emma Dumanski and Mr. D. Provenza, Mackenzie Robinson and Miss Raub, Penelope Haney and Miss Williams, Riyan Khurram and Miss David, Siena Cosentino and Mrs. Karst, Ava Davis and Dr. M. Provenza, and Liam Patel and Ms. Situ, and the show was led by director and vocal coach Mr. Palma. The judges for the show were Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Tarr, and Ms. Bye. It was a hard decision for them to make because every act was fantastic, but in the end, Dr. M. Provenza and Ava Davis were the winners with Barbie. Congratulations to everyone who participated!





NEWS



Simone Biles Transforms Modern Gymnastics

By Diva Patel

Simone Biles is the "GOAT" of gymnastics who revolutionized skills using power while competing with Team USA. At just 16 years old, Simone won two gold medals at the Antwerp Championships. Simone is an Olympic dominator with seven gold, two silver, and two bronze medals. She also owns the title of the "most decorated gymnast" with 41 combined Olympic and World Championship medals. Simone says, "Practice creates confidence. Confidence empowers you, and she states, "I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Plelps. I'm the first Simone Biles." and these quotes inspire many young athletes and will for years to come. Biles also has many skills named in her honor when she competes like the Biles which is a roundoff onto the springboard, followed by a half-turn entry onto the vault, with a front stretched somersault and two twists. She is also one of the oldest female Olympic gymnasts to compete at the highest level. Along with all her gymnastics achievements in 2022, she was the youngest recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to gymnastics and advocacy for mental health. Simone Biles is a revolutionary person and will never be forgotten in the world of gymnastics.



FIFA World Cup 2026

By Seher Zaman

The FIFA World Cup has started in North America. Football or as Americans call it soccer is being played now. Many fans will go watch the games at the stadiums and at home. You can find out more about the cities hosting the matches by visiting FIFA Host Cities online. You can even go to MetLife Stadium in New Jersey to see players from all over the world play against each other. People love the World Cup because it brings the whole world together every four years, and many players will try their best to win the cup for their home country. It will be very fun to watch on TV or in person, so check it out.



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Super Mario Bros Galaxy Movie

By the one and only, Samuel Freeman

The *Super Mario Bros Galaxy Movie* is possibly the biggest movie of 2026. A long-awaited sequel to the *Super Mario Bros Movie* from 2022, but how the movie is depends on who you ask. A movie critic may see it differently from a Mario fan. This is essentially going to be a review for the movie with the least number of possible spoilers. *The Super Mario Bros Galaxy Movie* is a sequel to *The Super Mario Bros Movie.* Without spoiling it, the movie essentially follows the old Mario formula, by having Princess Peach being captured again, and Mario having to save her. Instead of Bowser doing the kidnapping, it's his son, Bowser Jr. In an oversimplified expression, it's just the first movie, but with Mario Galaxy themes. Some viewers that have seen the movie criticized how Rosalina was mischaracterized from how she was from the Mario Games, but still said overall it was a good movie. Movie critics on the other hand reviewed the movie as awful, because in their eyes the movie did not have a meaningful narrative. Personally, I think it was okay. Nothing really bad or really good, just another ordinary Mario movie.



Movie Review: *Backrooms*

By the one and only, Samuel Freeman

The movie *Backrooms*, directed by Kane Parsons and distributed by A24, is overall a pretty good movie. To put it simply, Backrooms is a place where you unclip out of reality and end up there. The movie is about a guy named Clark who owns a furniture store, and he randomly finds a portal to the Backrooms in his basement. Clark and his friends get trapped inside and are hunted by monsters.

Some people were a little upset that it was not like the Wiki lore of the Backrooms (entirely different from Kane's version of it), where the Wiki lore has a whole set of other rooms or "levels." The Wiki version of the Backrooms adapts to the subject, with its own Wiki, or type of Wikipedia. Kane's version is more just the yellow room of the Backrooms. On Kane's YouTube channel, he has his own lore about the entire thing, which is what the movie is based on. A lot of key elements in the *Backroom* movie make way for the movie's plot. I am going to try my best not to spoil the entire movie, but there are a lot of symbols in it. For example, the piece of concrete from the protagonist's therapist, Dr. Mary Kline, represents her past trauma with her mother, and her desire to break free from psychological loops.

This movie was a huge success, even though it was Kane's creative lore through the entire thing. Spoiler though, this is an R rated movie because it is a horror movie. I personally enjoyed it, but not the ending. There were a lot of good jump scares. I also somewhat wished it had stuck to the Wiki lore, but overall, I am satisfied with it.

LOL –Jokes Corner

- **Q:** What did the ocean say to the beach?
  A: Nothing. It just waved!
- **Q:** Where do sheep go on summer vacation?
  A: The Baaaaa-hamas!



To all our retirees,
May this new chapter bring you endless joy, relaxation, and the time to pursue all your passions.

- Mr. Errico
- Ms. Frisch
- Mrs. Nunes
- Ms. Ritter

Check it out!

The King of Pop

By Ella Halmo

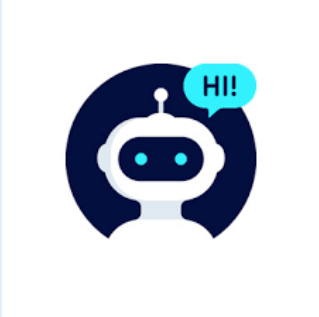
Michael Jackson is one of the best pop artists out there and even has earned the title the King of Pop. Michael started singing at a very young age and started to grow more popular and make more music. He grew up in Gary, Indiana where he lived with his father, Joe, mother, Kathrine, and his eight other siblings. Michael was born on August 29, 1958, and he started music at the age of five. He began singing because of his natural talent for singing and dancing. That's when he finally saw that he could use music as his career. Michael became an American singer, dancer, and philanthropist whose singing and dancing have made people all over go crazy for his great songs and dance moves. Speaking of great songs, he has a record-breaking album from 1982 titled, *Thriller* which remains one of the best-selling albums of all time. Another great thing about Michael is he is the first and only artist to score a top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 in six different decades, 1960-2020. If you think that isn't good enough, Michael also holds 39 world records for supporting the most charities to getting the most Grammys in one night. He has also changed history! In his 1993 Super Bowl halftime show, it was the first time the half time performance drew more viewers than the actual Super Bowl game itself.

Michael always wanted to make things better for people and the whole world. One of his famous quotes and song lyrics is "if you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make that change." He also said, "if you enter this world knowing you are loved and you leave this world knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with." Sadly, the king of pop passed away on June 25, 2009, but just because he is not physically here with us, his music, dance moves, and messages don't have to be forgotten. His legacy can live on.

Ronaldo Runs Soccer

By Jordy Tapia Zuniga

Cristiano Ronaldo is the best player in soccer. He scored his 324th goal as a member of Real Madrid in October 2015. He has skill, and he is better than Messi. But Ronaldo has also always been supportive of others and always helps his teammates. He has donated $1.5 million to the Portuguese cancer center that treated his mother's cancer. He donated $5 million to the people from the Nepal earthquake. He has also donated his UCL bonus to charity and built a hotel for people that lost their homes in Syria. Cristiano Ronaldo has lived by the quote, "Talent without working hard is nothing." Cristiano Ronaldo has transcended football to become a cultural icon, especially with his charity work.



Not Good AI

By Genesis AI

Using AI or artificial intelligence for school might seem like a great shortcut, but it's actually not that good for you in the long run. When you just let a bot write your essays or solve your math homework, you skip the actual learning part. Dealing with hard assignments is how your brain gets smarter and learns how to think for itself. If you always rely on AI, you're going to be totally lost when it's time for a test or when you have to do something on your own without a phone. Plus, AI isn't even always right—sometimes it just completely makes stuff up but acts like it's a fact. If you just copy and paste everything, you won't actually learn anything, and school just becomes a game of cutting corners instead of actually getting smarter.

